

## breakout ABSTRACT

Abstract No. 8

### TITLE

**“FROM PATCHWORK TO NETWORK” IN ENVIRONMENTAL PUBLIC HEALTH TRACKING: WORKING WITH UNFUNDED STATES TO ADVANCE THE NATIONAL EFFORT**

### TRACK

**Network Sustainability**

### OBJECTIVES

At the end of this presentation, attendees will be able to:

1. Describe why the meeting was held and its importance to the national tracking effort.
2. Discuss the needs of state health agencies that are not funded participants in CDC’s National Tracking Program.
3. Understand the importance of information sharing among all states and the unique role National Tracking Program grantees have in that process.

### SUMMARY

The Association of State and Territorial Health Officials (ASTHO) works to promote the development of a nationwide environmental public health tracking program. In March of 2006, ASTHO partnered with the National Association of County and City Health Officials and the National Environmental Health Association to host, From Patchwork to Network: Constructing a Nationwide Environmental Public Health Tracking Program. The workshop brought together teams of environmental health professionals from Colorado, Indiana, Kansas, Michigan, and South Carolina. Representatives from state and local health agencies and the state environmental agency were on each team.

The Patchwork to Network workshop was designed to:

Increase awareness of environmental public health tracking activities in all states.

Provide tools to initiate environmental health surveillance partnerships.

Discuss the development of the National Environmental Public Health Tracking Program and ways unfunded state and local agencies can contribute to national efforts.

The first half of the workshop focused on educating participants about the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention’s (CDC) National Environmental Public Health Tracking Program (the National Tracking Program). During the second half, state teams developed action plans and goals for future tracking activities. Participants also discussed their needs as stakeholders in but not contributors to the National Tracking Program.



## Implementing The Tracking Network

As the National Tracking Program moves forward, it is important that state health agencies not participating in the CDC efforts to stay informed of the progress. The Patchwork to Network workshop was significant because it was specifically designed for unfunded states. Participants had an opportunity to learn about the National Tracking Program and to develop relationships with other environmental health professionals.

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